

BIOLOGY PROFESSOR'S AGROECOLOGICAL RESEARCH SHARED GLOBALLY

Department of Biology Professor Subhrajit Saha presented his agroecological research before an international symposium hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. He was among more than 50 experts from around the globe who made presentations at the forum in Rome, Italy. With the threat of global warming, agroecology is being recognized more and more as a climate-smart method of producing high quality food. Saha's participation in the symposium also exposed Georgia Southern's research initiatives to a global community of researchers, policymakers and international agencies and organizations.

In addition, Saha visited CATIE, a leading organization in Tropical Agricultural Research, in Costa Rica and Nicaragua. He presented his agroecological research, and along with local scientists visited CATIE's research sites in the two countries. His appearances at international platforms have allowed Dr. Saha to expand his research globally and fostered international research collaborations with faculty and students in other countries.



For example, Saha made a presentation at the University of Veracruzana (UV) in Xalapa, Mexico, and currently serves on a UV

graduate student research committee. That has resulted in visits by UV students and faculty to his Georgia Southern laboratory.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

BRYANT SMALLEY RECOGNIZED FOR SUPPORTING RURAL HEALTH

Bryant Smalley, Ph.D., Psy.D., executive director of Georgia Southern University's Rural Health Research Institute, was named the 2015 Outstanding Educator by the National Rural Health Association at the 2015 Annual Rural Health Conference in Philadelphia, the largest gathering of rural health professionals in the nation.

The award is given annually to an individual who has contributed in substantial ways to the education and training of future rural health professionals, and is selected through a nationally competitive process.

"It is a great honor to be selected," said Smalley. "During my seven years at Georgia Southern University, I have had the great fortune to work with dozens of students and faculty members wishing to focus on rural health issues. The needs in rural health are great, but so too are the opportunities, and it is a privilege to contribute to the development of future rural health professionals."

During his tenure at Georgia Southern, Smalley has received more than \$6 million in federal grants to support the efforts of the Rural Health Research Institute, including a \$5.1 million National Institutes of Health Center of Excellence grant that supports several training programs for undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral researchers and early-stage faculty. One such program, the Disparities Elimination Summer Research Experience attracts a national cohort of students each summer to Georgia Southern for a six-week, full-time immersive research training experience. In the 2015 cycle, more than 400 students competed for the six available slots in the program. Smalley incorporates substantial student engagement into his research, with 10 student co-publications, nearly 40 student co-presentations and over 50 students engaged in research and service learning opportunities.

